The Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) and the Food Corporation of India (FCI) also undertake construction of warehouses in various locations throughout the country for storage of foodgrains and other essential commodities. At present, CWC's godowns are under construction in Madhya Pradesh at Suhagpur in District Hoshangabad (5000 MT) and at Narsingpur in District Jabalpur (4100 MT). During the Eighth Plan period, a total additional capacity of about 65000 MT is proposed to be created by CWC in Madhya Pradesh. FCI has proposals to construct godowns at Ujjain (5000 MT) and Itarsi (15000 MT) during the Eight Plan period.

[English]

Science Councillors Abroad

5559. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Science and Technology has five scoience councillors posted in foreign countries;

(b) if so, the countries where these are posted;

(c) the nature of work assigned to these officials; and

(d) the annual expenditure born by the Government in maintaining their offices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGRET ALVA): (a) and (b). There are four Science Counsellors posted in foreign countries, namely in Germany, Japan, Russia and U. S. A.

(c) Their work pertains to the implementation of bilateral programmes of cooperation in Science and Technology keeping the Indian agencies and institutions informed about the latest scientific and technicalogical advancements, assembling and analysing the latest S&T developments in the host countries and other similar activities pertaining to scoience and technology.

(d) The annual expenditure was Rs. 114.34 lakhs during the last for all the Counselloras.

Import of Coal

5560. SHRI M. V. V. S. MURTHY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the imports of various types of coal during the past three years;

(b) the reasons therefor;

(c) the target period for achieving self-sufficiency in coal production; and

(d) the details of the available resources of coal in the country?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) and (b). Integrated steel plant are the main importers of low ash coking coal for the pupose of blending with indigenous coal for meeting the gap between the indigenous availability and the demand and also to improve the quality of overall blend to be used in steel plants. Coking coal imported by steel plants during the last 3 years is given below: –